

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Final Rejection of September 25, 2007, and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-17 in the application. In previous responses, the Applicants amended Claims 1, 5, and 10-14 and canceled Claims 2-3, 6, 8-9 and 15-17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the present response, the Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10 and 14 and have added Claims 18-19. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, on page 3, line 21, to page 4, line 6, of the original specification. Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10-14 and 18-19 are currently pending in the application.

I. Comment on Cited Reference

The Examiner relies on U.S. Patent No. 7,002,979 to Schneider, *et al.* in the below §103(a) rejections of the pending claims. Schneider, however, is not prior art. The present application was filed on September 26, 2001, and claims priority from provisional application 60/237,237 filed on October 2, 2000. (*See* lines 6-7, page 1, of the original specification.) Schneider, which was issued on February 21, 2006, was filed on August 10, 2001. Therefore, the priority date of the present application, October 2, 2000, predates the priority date of Schneider, August 10, 2001. As such, Schneider is antedated by the present invention and is not prior art.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 10 and 14 to more clearly indicate compliance with the written description requirement. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §112 rejection with respect to Claims 1, 10 and 14 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 7, 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,002,979 to Schneider, *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,206 to Jensen, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Schneider is not prior art. Thus, the cited combination of Schneider and Jensen does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claims 1, 10 and 14 and Claim 7 which depends on Claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 1, 7, 10 and 14 and allow issuance thereof.

IV. Rejection of Claims 4, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 4, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider in view of Jensen and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,628 to Chen, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Schneider is not prior art. Thus, the cited combination of Schneider, Jensen and Chen does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of dependent Claims 4, 11 and 12. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 4, 11 and 12 and allow issuance thereof.

V. Rejection of Claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider in view of Jensen and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,029,212 to Kessler, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, Schneider is not prior art. Thus, the cited combination of Schneider, Jensen and Kessler does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of dependent Claims 5 and 13. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 5 and 13 and allow issuance thereof.

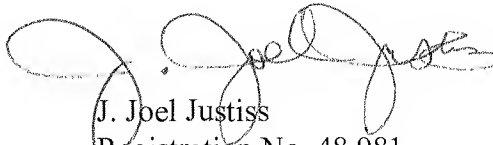
VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-14 and 18-19.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, PC



J. Joel Justiss
Registration No. 48,981

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P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800